



MEMORANDUM OFFICE OF THE COUNTY MANAGER

TO: Steve Shiver
County Manager

DATE:

FROM: Danny Alvarez
Executive Director
Office of Public Transportation
Management

SUBJECT: Monthly OPTM Report and 90 day
Outlook

The purpose of this memorandum is to inform you of the improvements undertaken by the Office of Public Transportation Management (OPTM) pursuant to the passage of the People's Transportation Plan and the proposed initiatives slated for the first quarter of 2003.

On November 5, 2002, the voters of Miami-Dade County overwhelmingly passed the People's Transportation Plan. The following summarizes the accomplishments subsequent to the election and the proposed goals and objectives scheduled for the next 90 days.

Activities since November 5, 2002:

- Implemented on November 6, 2002 free fares for Metromover and free transit for Miami-Dade citizens age 65 and above;
- Initiated the Little Haiti Connector, the Little Havana Circulator and the Coconut Grove Circulator in November and December of 2002; and made improvements to 12 existing Metrobus routes (i.e. longer hours, weekend service, etc.);
- MDT has hired 79 new employees since November 5th and is slated to hire an additional 93 employees in the next 90 days. Total new hires by the end of the year will be approximately 807. These will include 495 new bus operators, 82 bus mechanics and 47 Transit Operations Supervisors;
- Ordered 100 full size buses for June 2003 delivery to support the Peoples Transportation Plan (PTP);
- Issued and received responses to our Request for Letters of Interest to obtain 70 mini-buses which will provide new service in the first year of the Peoples Transportation Plan (PTP);
- Held PTP Municipal Workshop in December 2002 outlining project criteria and guidance.

- Met with FDOT, MDX and Tri-Rail to map action plan on development of the East-West line from FIU to Downtown Miami;
- Reviewed the Earlington Heights-MIC Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) and provided departmental comments. Authorized Development Team to complete DEIS process, including MPO action;
- Dedicated and opened the new Florida International University (FIU) Bus Terminal. Facility will service approximately 1230 passengers per week. FDOT provided 50% of funding;
- Opened the South Miami-Dade Busway 168 Street Park and Ride facility on December 16, 2002;
- Broke ground on the South Miami-Dade Busway, Phase II, Segment I from Southwest 211th Street to Southwest 264th Street;
- Updated the department action plan that outlines service plans and resources needed to implement the People's Transportation Plan (PTP) improvements;
- Met with area business officials concerning specific bus service improvements and responded to letters and e-mails from the public concerning the PTP service;
- Represented Miami-Dade County at public meetings with the 2020 Transit Coalition, South Florida Workforce, and the passenger outreach program and made presentations on the implementation of the PTP;
- Coordinated with other transit staff on bus stop locations, bus stop decals, overhead signs, and bus stop announcements for new and extended People's Transportation Plan (PTP) routes;
- Continued detailed service planning for the improvements scheduled for implementation between December 2002 and March 2003. These tasks included final route design, running time estimates, on-site investigations, cost and resource estimates and schedule review;
- Responded to Broad Causeway bridge weight restrictions by planning the detour and shuttle bus alignments. Coordinated with Town of Bay Harbor Islands and worked with the Scheduling Division of MDT to develop a shuttle schedule and revised Route G schedule;
- Met with the Transport Workers Union (TWU) to review the PTP service improvements to be implemented through March 2003;
- Completed the implementation activities for the November 10, 2002 department lineup. These activities included distribution of maps to transit staff, coordinated with MDT to develop rider notices, copying of rider notices and the distribution to passengers;

- Planned special tripper service on several routes for November 9th so that improvements could begin on Saturday instead of Sunday, November 10th;
- Reviewed the final draft report by Daniel, Mann, Johnson, and Mendenhall (DMJM & Harris) on the study for new bus garage locations and discussed comments with the consultant's project manager;
- Met with a private jitney owner to discuss the impact of the new Little Haiti Circulator on his route. Investigated the area to determine possible options to the Little Haiti Circulator alignment;
- Prepared detailed operational statistics for the Materials Management Division for their negotiations with the Penske Corporation to manage minibus maintenance;
- Collected ridership and schedule performance data for upcoming service planning and the National Transit Database;
- Continued with the extensive statistical analysis of data collected in 2002 for the National Transit Database to determine passenger miles for Metrorail and Metrobus;
- Prepared a sample of trips to be checked for bus stop announcements. Updated the bus stop announcement lists to include new routes and new transfer locations;
- Worked with the County Attorney's office, currently in the process of filing the eminent domain case for Segment I-N, Parcel B-4 of the Busway Extension to Florida City, Segment I;
- Initiated appraisal report on the Busway Extension to Florida City, Segment II;
- Finalizing work at the Palmetto Station. Contractor is preparing the project for final inspection, performed the coordination of quality control activities and OPTM is currently in the process of providing final touch ups and cleanup;
- The bid opening for the Busway Extension to Florida City Segment I-N was held on December 18, 2002. The apparent low bidder was Central Florida Equipment Rental. Staff is currently analyzing the bids;

The following is a list of initiatives to be undertaken within the next 90 days by the Office of Public Transportation Management:

Proposed Service Improvements

- Implementation of the Coral Way MAX, the Hialeah Gardens Connector, and the Sweetwater Connector;
- Improve peak headways from 60 to 30 minutes for bus routes E, R, V, 28, 35, 57, 65, 70, 91, and 104;

- Put into service an additional 70 new mini-buses beginning in March of 2003;
- Complete the Metrorail Extension to the Palmetto Expressway and open the Palmetto Station for revenue service;
- Award and begin construction on Segment I-N of the Busway Extension to Florida City;
- Begin updating the North Corridor Metrorail FEIS study;
- Award consultant contract for the development of specifications for the Metrorail & Phase 1 Metromover Mid-Life Vehicle Fleet Overhaul and Modernization Project;
- Finalize the Joint Participation Agreement (JPA) with FDOT for the Metrorail Overpass Over Okeechobee Road. Approval of proposed staffing plans required for the implementation of the People's Transportation Plan;
- Begin design of the Downtown Bus Terminal project;
- Approval of the supplemental agreements for the six Miscellaneous Professional Services Agreements (consultant contracts);
- Begin work on Fire Alarm Improvements at All Metrorail and Metrobus Facilities contract;

Legislative Initiatives/Grant Applications

FEDERAL LEGISLATIVE INITIATIVES: Prepare FY 04 federal legislative and appropriations package, to include the following:

Reauthorization Request:

- North Corridor (including the Earlington Heights/Miami Intermodal Center Connector)
- East-West Corridor
- Kendall Corridor
- Northeast Corridor
- South Dade Corridor

New Starts Appropriations/Legislative Language Request:

North Corridor:

- \$10 million in New Starts funds for final design and construction.
- A "Full Funding Grant Agreement.
- Inclusion in the President's Budget of a "Full Funding Grant Agreement" and an earmark of \$10 million.
- A rating of "highly recommended" by the Federal Transit Administration.

East-West Corridor:

- Seeking \$10 million in New Starts funds for preliminary engineering and right-of-way.

Bus Related Discretionary Funds Request:

- *Bus Programs:* Support \$15 million funding request of discretionary federal bus and bus-related funds to enhance current levels of service to meet growing transportation demand, including 24-hour bus service.
- *South Florida Regional Integrated Fare Collection System:* Support \$25 million funding request for procuring and implementing a common fare collection system that will make travel between Miami-Dade, Broward, and Palm Beach counties seamless, convenient and cost effective.
- *Security and Surveillance System:* Support \$23 million funding request to enhance and install security and surveillance systems through Miami Dade Transit's (MDT) transit properties and vehicles.
- *Northwest 7th Avenue Bus Facility:* A transit hub at the intersection of NW 7th Avenue and NW 62nd Street will provide seamless access for commuters to and from the Liberty City area.

TEALU General Priorities:

- Support legislation that strengthens transportation funding guarantees. The Firewall and Revenue Aligned Budget Authority provisions of TEA-21 should be strengthened to ensure that all revenues in the Highway Trust Fund are spent for their intended purpose.
- Support legislation that increases funding for transportation from the Highway Trust Fund and General Fund.
- Support legislation that maximizes the return of funding to Florida; the next federal act should guarantee Florida at least a 95% rate of return on all funds distributed to the states.
- Support legislation that expands innovative financing techniques, such as leverage leases and Transportation Finance Corporations.
- Support legislation that maintains oversight of transit security issues with the federal government and prevents its transfer to the state.

STATE LEGISLATIVE INITIATIVES: Prepare FY 03 State legislative package, to include the following:

FY 03 Appropriations Request:

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| • North Corridor | \$10,000,000 |
| • Bus Service Enhancements | \$ 5,000,000 |
| • Downtown Bus Terminal /Flagler | \$ 2,500,000 |
| • Northeast Miami-Dade Passenger Center | \$ 2,500,000 |

FY 03 State Legislative Request:

- Support legislation that would provide additional revenues for the Transportation Disadvantaged (TD) Program and;
- Support any legislation that would continue to provide additional funds for the Work and Gain Economic Self Sufficiency (WAGES) program or related programs such as the Welfare-to-Work program.
- Support the continued funding of the County's Incentive Grant Program.
- Support legislation that would provide additional funds for the Medicaid Transportation Program and.
- Support any legislation that would continue the Transportation Outreach Program (TOP).
- Support language modification to Chapter 316 and Chapter 322.61 as follows:
- To comply with new federal legislation that requires state's to disqualify individuals convicted of "serious" traffic violations from being issued a Commercial Driver's License.
- To comply with new federal legislation that requires states to revoke an individual's Commercial Driver's License if convicted of "serious" traffic violations.
- Support any amendment to Florida Statute 163.567 enabling the converting of the existing South Florida Regional Transportation Organization (RTO) to a Regional Transportation Authority (RTA); to include the renaming of the Tri-County Commuter Rail Authority as the South Florida Regional Transportation Authority.

Citizen's Independent Transportation Trust

- Mailed notices to the twenty civic and business organizations appointed by the Board of County Commissioners to nominate names;
- Will present names of Nomination Committee, for Board approval, to the Board of County Commissioners at their January 23, 2003 meeting;
- Subsequent to BCC approval, schedule and hold meetings of the Nomination Committee;
- Forward to BCC names of candidates to the CITT chosen by the Nomination Committee;
- Selection of members of the Citizen's Independent Transportation Trust by the Board of County Commissioners;
- First meeting of the CITT.

C: Bill Johnson, Assistant County Manager/
Transportation Manager